

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION HA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 EUR-08 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 486

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 0801

LIMDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY, NIMETZ, AND VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, TU
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT TO CONGRESS ON TURKEY

REF: A) STATE 22193, B) ANKARA 0795 C) SPIERS/LISSFELT TEL CONV.
JANUARY 30

1. LATE EVENING JANUARY 30 MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CALLED ME TO SAY THAT MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS GUNDUZ OKCUN WANTED TO SEE ME AT 11:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME. I WAS AT THE TIME ATTENDING A SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT WITH MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG WHO TOLD ME REASON FOR SUMMONS WAS THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT TO CONGRESS ON TURKEY THAT HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO MFA OFFICIAL EARLIER IN THE DAY. ELEKDAG DID NOT GO INTO DETAILS BUT CHARACTERIZED THE REPORT AS PATRONIZING AND INDICATED THAT GOT PARTICULARLY INCENSED BY PARAGRAPH CONCERNING KURDS.

2. WHEN I ARRIVED FOR THE MEETING, OKCUN WAS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY PLEASANT AND APOLOGIZED FOR ASKING ME TO CALL ON HIM AT SUCH AN HOUR. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE REASON FOR THE MEETING WAS THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT AND HE THANKED THE EMBASSY
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FOR HAVING PROVIDED THE MINISTRY WITH AN ADVANCE COPY. HE SAID HAVING READ IT, HOWEVER, HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAD SOME SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REPORT SINCE IT DID NOT REFLECT THE FACTS AS HE UNDERSTOOD THEM.

3. THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT THAT IT DID NOT REFLECT, HE SAID, WAS THE RECENT CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN TURKEY IN

WHICH A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAD TAKEN POWER. FURTHER, OKCUN SAID, THE REPORT DID NOT REFLECT THE RECENT VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE OR THE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND PRIMIN ECEVIT ABOUT THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDES TOWARD DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. OKCUN SAID THAT IN COMPARISON WITH REPORT SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS THE PREVIOUS YEAR, THE 1978 REPORT WAS MUCH MORE HARSH. HE SAID THE NEW REPORT APPEARED TO HIM TO BE UNFRIENDLY, IF NOT HOSTILE, AND HE AGAIN REPEATED HIS POINT THAT CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN ANKARA SHOULD HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN THE REPORT.

5. CONTINUING HIS GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE REPORT, OKCUN SAID THE PARAGRAPH ON THE KURDISH PROBLEM SUGGESTED A NEW POLICY ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THIS WERE IN FACT THE CASE BECAUSE IF IT WERE, HE WOULD FEEL THE NEED TO PROPOSE A MAJOR CHANGE IN TURKISH POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID COMMENTS IN THAT PARAGRAPH THREATENED THE NATIONAL AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF TURKEY. HE SAID THEY DO NOT REGARD KURDS AS A MINORITY BUT AS A PART OF THE TURKISH CITIZENRY. MINORITIES HE SAID, ARE THOSE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES WHO HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT AND WHOSE RIGHTS HAVE BEEN GUARANTEED BY THE LAUSANNE TREATY. CONFIDENTIAL

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OKCUN ASKED THAT THE PARAGRAPH CONCERNING KURDS BE DELETED IN ITS ENTIRETY. HE COMPLAINED THAT WHILE THE NEW ECEVIT GOVERNMENT WAS BUSILY ENGAGED IN TRYING TO PLACE TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS ON A HEALTHIER BASIS, THE AMERICAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD BEEN PREPARING A REPORT WHICH WOULD DAMAGE U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS.

6. OKCUN THEN LISTED SEVERAL OTHER SPECIFIC PORTIONS OF THE REPORT THAT HE SAID CONTAINED FACTUAL ERRORS OR REHASHED OLD PROBLEMS THAT HAD NOT ONLY BEEN RESOLVED BUT ALSO HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS SUCH REPORTS. IN PARAGRAPH 1, SUBPARAGRAPH A, OKCUN SAID THE TWO SENTENCES BEGINNING WITH "DURING" AND ENDING WITH "PROSECUTION" SHOULD BE DELETED SINCE THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND REPEATED ALLEGED EVENTS OF SEVEN TO FIVE YEARS EARLIER. IN SUBPARAGRAPH C, HE SAID THE PHRASE "AND IN SOME CASES 15 DAYS" CONSTITUTED AN ERROR IN FACT AND SHOULD BE DELETED. IN PARAGRAPH 3, SUBPARAGRAPH A, THE PARAGRAPH BEGINNING "CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE" WAS UNSUBSTANTIATED AND PARTICULARLY HARMFUL TO U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS. FINALLY, HE SAID, THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE REPORT BEGINNING WITH "IN LIGHT OF TURKISH MILITARY INTERVENTION" WOULD

DAMAGE THE NEW TURKISH APPROACH ON CYPRUS. HE SAID THE DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSIDERATION OF CHARGES AGAINST TURKEY WAS HARSHER THAN WHAT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ACTUALLY DID. HE ALSO ASKED WHY THE US GOVERNMENT WAS AT THIS TIME REPLAYING THESE ALLEGATIONS BUT HAD NOT DURING THE MID-60'S SPOKEN OUT ABOUT THE ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. HE THEN CONTINUED ON THE THEME THAT THE REPETITION BY THE US GOVERNMENT IN AN OFFICIAL REPORT OF UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES AMOUNTED TO ASSESSING GUILT BEFORE IT HAD BEEN PROVED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 0801

LIMDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY, NIMETZ, AND VEST

7. IN CONCLUDING THE MEETING, OKCUN AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS REGRET THAT HE HAD FELT IT NECESSARY TO MEET WITH ME AND DISCUSS THESE PROBLEMS RATHER THAN HAVING A MORE POSITIVE DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE BASES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT MIGHT NOT SEEM AS IMPORTANT TO THE U.S. AS IT DOES TO THE TURKS, BUT THEY CONSIDER ITS PUBLICATION OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE. HE ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

8. COMMENT: OKCUN WAS RESTRAINED AND PLEASANT THROUGHTOUT THE MEETING, HOWEVER, IT WAS CLEAR FROM HIS MANNER THAT HE WAS HIGHLY AGITATED BY THE REPORT. HE CLEARLY FELT THAT IT HAD VIOLATED IN THE VERY LEAST THE SPIRIT OF A NEW START IN THE US-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAD COME

OUT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND PRIMIN
TEN DAYS AGO. ALTHOUGH HE WAS OBVIOUSLY SERIOUS ABOUT ALL
OF THE REQUESTED CHANGES, I RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION
THAT SOME ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN OTHERS. AS AN ABSOLUTE
MINIMUM, THE PARAGRAPH ON THE KURDISH PROBLEM MUST BE
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REMOVED FROM THE REPORT IF WE ARE TO AVOID A SERIOUS SETBACK
IN OUR PRESENT EFFORTS TO RESTORE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH
TURKEY. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE SOME MERITS IN
OKCUN'S ARGUMENTS THAT THE FIRST TWO SENTENCES OF
PARAGRAPH 1 A DO CONSTITUTE A REHASH OF NO LONGER PERTINENT
MATERIAL. THE MISSTUTEMENT OF FACT IN 1 C SHOULD ALSO
GO. IF IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE THE COMPLETE
PARAGRAPH IN 3 A BEGINNING "CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE" I WOULD
SUGGEST THAT THE PHRASE "PARTICULARLY THE ARMENIANS, GREEKS
AND KURDS" BE REMOVED. IF THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE REPORT
BEGINNING WITH "IN LIGHT OF THE TURKISH MILITARY INTERVENTION"
CAN NOT BE EXCISED, IT SHOULD BE REWRITTEN IN A MORE
BALANCED MANNER. IT SHOULD ALSO NOT BE IN CONFLICT WITH FINDINGS OF
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. SPECIFICALLY, I BELIEVE THAT REPEATING
THE GREEK CYPRIOT ALLEGATION OF LARGE SCALE MURDER, RAPE AND INHUMAN
TREATMENT OF PRISONERS SHOULD BE CHANGED TO A LESS
EMOTIONALLY CHARGED PHRASE, UNLESS BALANCED BY
SIMILAR DETAILS FROM THE TURKISH COUNTER-CHARGES.
SPIERS

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